



MARCH ON PARLIAMENT!

***NO CUTS!
NO FEES!
SAVE EMA!***



**ISSUE 106
BRING DOWN
THE GOVERNMENT!**

JOIN THE REVOLUTION! SOCIALISTREVOLUTION.ORG

Just the beginning

By Rachel

MANY THOUSANDS of students have taken to streets in the last few weeks. They are fighting increases in fees, cuts to higher education funding and the complete scrapping of the Education Maintenance Allowance. The students have built a huge movement, determined to stop these barbaric attacks on education and every individual's hope of a better life.

The Con-Dems announced the vote on tuition fees for 9 December. The student movement will have spent a week escalating the actions including, protests outside of Lib Dem offices, rallies after school and stunts on campuses across the country.

Some students will have set up pickets outside the gates of their schools and colleges to ensure that no one goes in – and instead everyone comes out on the march. Even so, the chances are that the Lib Dems will be too spineless to stand up against

their Tory friends, which means the vote may well get passed through Parliament.

And then what? If the vote goes through and tuition fees get increased it need not signify the end of the movement: it should only be the beginning. We should all remember that the Poll Tax got passed in parliament, but mass mobilisations brought the government to its knees, got rid of the Poll Tax and even managed to get Thatcher to resign. Likewise, when the French government passed new youth employment legislation in 2006, the threat of a general strike from the movement was enough to stop the law ever being implemented. No matter what gets decided on Thursday, we still fight on.

Fighting EMA cuts will be a top priority for us all, and that will be decided at a local council level. We will need to put pressure on local councils with more protests and

further actions. Students and workers should join local anti-cuts committees and find out where these actions are happening. You could start by looking for your local group at anticuts.org.uk

We need students across the country to call general assemblies that bring together students and workers, to decide on their next steps. And crucially we need full support from the working class and their organisations, the trade unions. Trade union leaders must call their members out, because the attack on education is an attack on the entire class. It is an attack on our RIGHT not to be treated as inferiors by the rich.

All out on the 9th, and all out thereafter, until we have stopped every single cut, every single attack on our services and brought this government down!



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The Lib Dems are shaking but how will they vote?

By John

AS THE TRUE SCALE of the protests on 24 and 30 November days of action became clear, Nick Clegg pleaded with protesters not to march. He said "examine our proposals before taking to the streets. Listen and look before you march and shout."

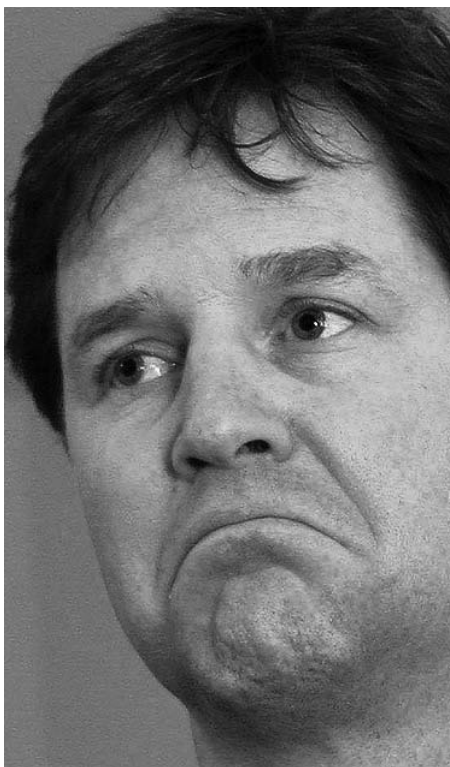
But we had listened, and been told only lies. And when we looked, we saw the full horror of what they were proposing – 80 per cent teaching cuts to new universities, complete withdrawal of teaching grants from arts and humanities courses, and the carefully concealed plot to almost completely eradicate EMA, making education an expensive commodity only for the rich. Clegg's statement was like a red rag to a bull.

Perhaps Eton hadn't educated him and Cameron as well as they thought. And hundreds of thousands of school and college students marched right out of their lessons, joining university students in demonstrations thousands strong across Britain. In London, they thought police brutality would scare people off. It only made people more determined to fight, and to outwit the police the next time.

A flurry of statements appeared from national executive members of the National Union of Teachers, lecturers in the University and Colleges Union, and leaders of the National Union of Journalists pledging their solidarity with the students. Aaron Porter, NUS President who had distanced himself from the days of action suddenly u-turned to express his support.

Then ex-Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidates, 104 in total, signed a petition urging current Lib Dem MPs to vote against the raising of tuition fees. Do otherwise, they told Nick Clegg, would mean the party would "rightly face many more years back in the political wilderness, having been labelled as 'just like the other lot'". Islington Liberal Democrats voted to condemn the coalition position on fees, whilst Leeds Lib Dem MP Greg Mulholland called for the vote on 9 December not to take place.

A London conference of Lib Dem MPs had to be cancelled for fear of protest, and on 30 November, David Cameron wrote an



article in the London *Evening Standard* to tell students to "get their facts straight."

In different ways, this shows the fear that they have for our movement. They can't ignore us and they're starting to squirm.

Locked in

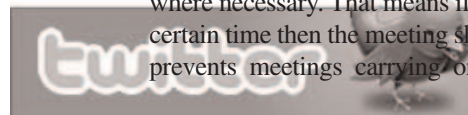
The Lib Dems are locked into this coalition and to break it now would leave them a small and powerless opposition group. Constitutionally, a third of their MPs are ministers and are therefore unable to vote against fees unless they resign. If they abstain, the vote will still pass. If the coalition breaks, a general election will be called at a time when their approval rating is at a record lows. All they can do is "hold their nerve", vote for the fees and pray that they will be forgiven in a few years time.

That's why we should expect to keep fighting after the vote is taken, building a mass movement against all the cuts and continue to inspire trade unionists and workers, demanding their leaders take strike action. We need to fight for a national education strike, and build up to a mass general strike to make the country ungovernable by either the Tories or their Lib Dem poodles.

The recent education struggle led to occupied. Some of these range from at London School of Economics.

Occupations are normally run by general assemblies that discuss what to do and the occupation like security, media and some students like to argue for them to make, this means no voting and even before they can be carried out.

REVOLUTION's position is conservative where necessary. That means if no agreement certain time then the meeting should prevent meetings carrying on for ever.



Lib Dems

@DavidCameronMP You can completely trust every single one of us 2 either abstain, vote in favour of, or vote against trebling tuition fees

@JohnHemmingMP sorry to hear about ur offices getting occupied today :(

@MetPolice you are going 2 kettle them right?????

@MetPolice Pls make sure protesters do a normal 'A to B' style march on Thurs when we vote on fees – there cud be trouble!

@CharlesKennedyMP If u vote 'yes' Nick will give u ur job back (would we ever lie?)

Therapeutic tips 4 "holding ur nerve" <http://tinyurl.com/36t8ez7>

@NormanBakerMP Norman u kno we'll never get A.V without selling out on everything else!

@RevolutionUK – U rogue elements r spoiling it 4 every1 else, especially us :(

Sum1 tried to buy a manifesto today. Told them we had sold out. They said "I know. but can I buy a copy of ur manifesto please" #megalolz

We need to build party to make a

By Mark & Simon



Russia revolutionary VI Lenin fought to build revolutionary parties across the world

THOUSANDS of young people were chanting "One Solution - Revolution!" on the 30 November protests in London but how do we actually make it happen?

REVOLUTION argues that we need a political party to really have a revolution in Britain. We don't mean a party like the Tories, Lib Dems or Labour. We mean a revolutionary party that bases itself on the most militant sections of workers, young people, students and oppressed peoples and organises them in such a way that can actually spark the overthrow of the capitalist system.

The necessity for a party is based on the reality of working-class life under capitalism. An organised body is needed to take revolutionary ideas into every section of the working-class. We need to organise the best activists around a programme - a physical, democratically agreed document - for

turning resistance into revolution against the state and the capitalist system.

This is because whilst society can go into a crisis which leads to a revolutionary situation (mass strikes and protests, government collapses, etc) an actual revolution, which replaces the capitalist state with a socialist state, has never and will never happen spontaneously. What is needed is a revolutionary party that can lead a struggle against the state at just the right moment, as the Bolsheviks did in Russia in 1917.

A party is needed to unite the best militants from all these different areas into one organisation, to consciously attempt to overcome differences between them that are created by the inequality of capitalism, and that are stirred up by the bosses as a means to divide us.

Revolutionary militants are needed in every workplace and community to argue

for struggles to be directed against capitalism, to argue for the necessity of linking up with other sections of the working-class that are fighting back, and struggling to widen any narrow struggle into one which fights for the whole working-class, and involves the whole working-class. The side that beats itself up the least is the side that will win, and we will only win by uniting around a mass revolutionary party.

Workers

Socialists talk about the working class a lot because it is only the working class that can really take society forward. The capitalists are only interested in profit and market share, even though their system condemns millions to poverty around the world.

The working class is everyone who either has to get up in the morning to go earn their bread, or suffer the indignity of unemploy-

a revolutionary revolution!

ment. We make all the things we buy, we work in the call centres, the shops, the factories, the schools and we clean our own streets. If we aren't working yet or on the dole, then we depend on people who are. This class already runs society in the sense that it does all the work, the problem is that the bosses own society. So if we take the bosses out of power and begin to democratically run things ourselves we can eliminate profit, greed and exploitation and develop a new society. This is what socialism is.

Ultimately if we want to change the world we need to fight for a working class revolution to put power in the hands of the working masses and not the capitalist class.

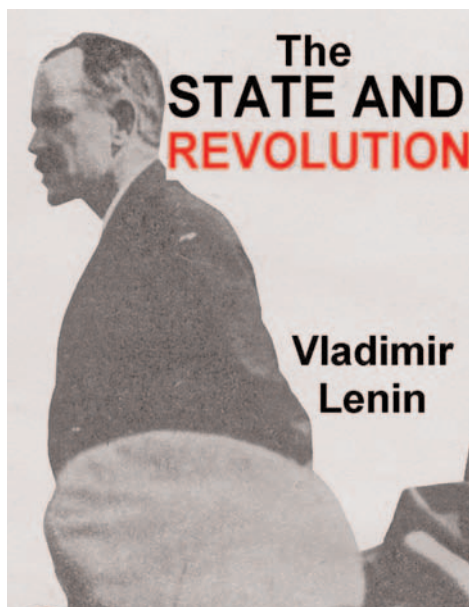
Unite and fight

In the struggle against education cuts and fees REVOLUTION has been arguing for the necessity of linking the struggle of the students with that of the education workers, and crucially, with all workers getting hammered by the cuts. This way we can broaden out the struggle to involve more sections of the working-class and unite as a movement powerful enough to stop ALL the cuts.

We need a party, not just a movement

When a movement is growing a lot of activists don't see the need for a revolutionary party. Some are openly hostile to parties, complaining that they try and 'take things over'. Whilst some revolutionary groups can act in an underhand and bureaucratic manner sometimes, we mustn't throw the baby out with the bath water. The point is that this or that movement might succeed and win important reforms, but we cannot get rid of the root cause of the problem unless we overthrow capitalism and democratically plan society.

A movement also brings together many people with different views, which



Lenin explains the need to overthrow the state in this classic text

This strengthens our resistance and can link the power of the workers with the energy and militancy of young people. In practice it means students making real connections with workers in education, teachers, lecturers and cleaning staff. It means speak-

is what makes it a movement. It is necessary to unite the most revolutionary and active people behind a programme of action which links the struggles today to the fight for power, and to fight for this within the movement.

There is no revolutionary party in Britain, despite some left groups claiming to be the party in reality they are all too small and unrepresentative. Revolution is not a party itself, we are a revolutionary youth organisation, but we are committed to building a revolutionary party in Britain, which is why we work together with Workers Power to try and found one.

ing to workers in other trade unions and reminding them to join these protests in defence of their own families. It means co-ordinating school walkouts with workers' strikes, letting the government know that we will not be divided.

This is why we want to build General Assemblies to bring students, the unemployed and workers together to organise their actions. Against the united assault of the ruling class cuts coalition, we need the whole working class to launch a united counter-attack.

These General Assemblies can, at the high point of the struggle, act as an alternative power in Britain, able to organise huge strikes, as well as the distribution of food and goods. This gives us an idea of the kind of power we have, as well as the future society we can build where we run things ourselves.

Overthrowing capitalism

When socialists talk about a revolution they mean the smashing of the capitalist state (which includes the police, the prisons and the judges) and their replacement by mass democratic bodies of workers and young people. Parliament would be replaced by a mass assembly of delegates from around the country, people elected and recallable by mass meetings in the local areas and workplaces.

A revolution means the use of force to end capitalism because no ruling class in history has ever given up power peacefully. In Petrograd, Russia in October 1917, the revolutionaries had so much support that when they overthrew the government and replaced it with working class power, only 7 people died.

It was when 14 capitalist powers invaded the young anti-capitalist republic that things really kicked off. But revolutions are spared the worst of the capitalist revenge the better they are organised to beat it back. And that's why the fight for a revolutionary party is a practical necessity.

If you agree that there is one solution, revolution, if you agree that we need to bring down the system then join REVOLUTION!

Parliament: democracy FAIL

By John

Every four to five years; red, blue and yellow politicians try to persuade us to cast our votes for them, telling us that they will lead the country best and make our lives better.

Even though we elect parliament, real power is held by people who we don't ever elect: the generals who lead the massacres in Afghanistan, the police who kettle us for hours at protests, the managers who can sack us, cut our pay, and bully us as much as they like. The levers of power in capitalism are held by the heads of industry and the bankers in the city of London.

Disenfranchised

Young people and migrants (unless they have been in the country for a very long time) aren't able to vote, even though their lives are hugely affected by what goes on in Westminster.

But even those who can vote don't get much of a say. There are no structures to hold MPs to account, either to the electorate who voted for them or even to the members of their own political party. So when MPs break their promises, parliamentary

"democracy" fails us all – and let's face it – this happens a lot!

And the House of Commons is supposed to be the most democratic wing of parliament! The House of Lords still contains hereditary peers – people who get to vote on how the country is run, just because they were born to certain (rich) parents. The Queen is allowed to sign off laws, refuse to sign them and dissolve and recall parliament.

The invisible barrier to true democracy is that parliament serves the capitalist system first, and ordinary voters last. MPs who support the interests of the rich and the bosses get hefty donations to their election campaigns. Policies which would help ordinary people – like taxing the rich to fund education and public services – get vetoed by the bosses. "If you tax us, then we'll leave the country and take our factories and your jobs with us!" they cry, "You'll ruin the economy!" they scream in the media (that they own). The career politicians who inhabit parliament know who pays their bills and

always side with them. They hold the economy and our lives to ransom.

Even parties that claim to represent working people – like Labour – are actually part of this system. They are based on working-class votes and claim to represent us, but their leadership is committed to defending capitalism. That's why when out of power they will use radical rhetoric, but once safely in parliament they govern for the bosses just like everyone else.

Revolution

That's why we fight for a revolution, to rid us of this failed democracy and its servants – the career politicians, bullying managers, brutal police and murderous generals, and create a real workers democracy where all decisions that affect our lives can be voted on and decided by those who produce all the wealth, the working-class.



Police are not on our side

By Simon

SOME PEOPLE have been arguing that since police are also facing cuts that we can somehow win them over to our cause.

The problem is that police are not like other public sector workers. They carry out a dual role in society. On the one hand police are employed to solve crimes (usually not very well), but on the other hand they are used as "agents of law and order" who repress demonstrations.

A few months ago a Police Chief complained about the budget cuts would prevent them being able to police demonstrations properly. He said, "In an environment of cuts across the wider public sector, we face a period where disaffection, social and industrial tensions may well rise... We will require a strong, confident, properly trained and equipped police service, one in which morale is high and one that believes it is valued by the government and public."

What does this mean in practice? When

police kettled students in London for up to 9 hours on the Nov 24 walkout, many police were very violent, using batons, spraying us with toxic fire extinguishers and even using horse charges against people just exercising their right to protest. The history of progressive social movements has meant conflict with the police as they fight to maintain the status quo.

This is because coppers are not neutral. The police as well as the judges and prisons are the institutions that the rich and powerful rely on to keep us all in line. As an institution they are reactionary through and through. In many countries the police are used by dictatorships to suppress the people. In Britain they are an utterly racist organisation who specifically target Black people and criminalise them. This is why we say that self defence is no offence. If the police try and prevent our right to march then the movement needs to organise itself

with stewards so that it can defend our democratic right to protest.

What's the alternative?

Our alternative is simple. Socialists want to abolish the police force and replace it with a democratically elected and accountable militia. But ultimately we want to abolish capitalism. Under socialism most social crimes (theft, burglary etc) would be eliminated, because poverty and inequality would be eradicated, and the legalization and regulation of drugs would take huge sections of the black market controlled by gangs out of existence increasingly making any sort of policing body unnecessary.

What crime still existed would be better dealt with by democratically elected militia, actually accountable to the people they are policing in a way the police never will be. This kind of society can be built out of a revolutionary struggle against the state.

Where next for the anti-cuts movement?

By Rebecca

The walk-outs, occupations, protests and general assemblies that have taken place over the past few weeks in the student anti-cuts movement have been watched carefully by millions of people across the country and the world. The austerity packages being imposed on us by our governments are affecting everyone except the rich and the question on everyone's lips is 'what can we do about it?'

The student movement has begun to answer that question. The 24th November saw the biggest student walk-out in British history, over 30 universities have been occupied and the Welsh Assembly has been forced to say that it won't implement the rise in fees.

Workers, unemployed people and pensioners have all seen what can be achieved if we organise against the cuts and we need to take the militancy of the student movement into the fight against cuts to benefits, jobs and pensions.

Trade Unions

Some trade unions have already started to fight back, with workers in the fire brigade, tubes and BBC taking strike action. The teachers, lecturers and civil servants will hopefully be going on strike in the Spring to defend their pensions, and there will be a huge anti-cuts demonstration in March organised by the Trade Union Congress.

However, March is really far away and loads of cuts will have already been implemented by then – loads of people might have already lost their jobs and benefits. So we need to organise to fight back now.

Students, workers, unemployed and pensioners will be stronger if we organise together. There are anti-cuts groups in almost every town and city across Britain and we need to get students involved in these and turn them into huge mass meetings that can organise and co-ordinate action like the General Assemblies in the student movement have.

If the youth and workers in the schools, colleges and universities can bring 130,000 people out onto the streets then the wider anti-cuts movement should be able to bring out a million. Workers need to strike and to



occupy just like the students have. If we want to defeat the government and their cuts altogether then we'll need everyone to strike at the same time and stop the cogs at their workplaces and campuses till the job is done.

Obstacles

There are obstacles to doing this. The first is opposition from government and police. But just as students are organising stewards' groups to defend the right to protest, the right not to be kettled and the right not to have our skulls cracked by batons, so too will workers have to organise the defence of their actions. And just as university, FE and school students have come out together in solidarity so too will workers need to organise at rank and file level to beat the laws that prevent them from doing the same.

The main obstacle for now is closer to home. Just like the National Union of Students called the Millbank protesters 'despicable' and refused to support the walk-outs on the 24th Nov, the leaders of the trade unions don't always do what's best for workers or support everything they do in the fight against cuts.

One of the biggest lessons that the student movement has taught us in the wider fight against austerity, is that even if your leaders refuse to support you then you can take action without them, like walk-outs and occupations. If we are successful

enough then we can force them to support us because if they don't then they risk losing their positions as leaders.

Unite now!

We should throw our weight around, and demand that NUS and education unions call an all-out education strike. We should get as many other sections of workers to come out at the same time as possible – the powerful London tubeworkers and fire-fighters are good examples of workers who should have been joining their strike days up with ours.

The union leaders must all support the anti-cuts groups and if they refuse then we should organise without them and replace them with leaders who do support us. All of this is within our grasp and can pave the way for the indefinite general strike we need to be sure of victory.

We've already succeeded in fracturing – and hopefully fatally wounding – the government's image of consensus around cuts, and all in the space of a month of militant action by students. They've made costly concessions in the hope of dividing us, but so far we remain undefeated. We can achieve far more – everything we want in fact – by uniting the student movement with the wider anti-cuts movement and organising together. Join your local anti-cuts group and make it happen!

Occupations: organising centres for the movement

By Simon

DURING a political movement it is quite popular for university students to occupy rooms or buildings in their university. We saw this around the Israeli attack on Gaza in January 2009 when students occupied lecture theatres and issued a list of demands calling on their university Vice Chancellors to condemn the attacks and offer aid to Gazans.

The recent education struggle led to over 30 universities being occupied. Some of these range from around 15 students to over 300 at London School of Economics.

How can occupations be effective?

Occupations are normally run by general meetings, where everyone in the room discusses what to do and organise important aspects of the occupation like security, media and food. In these meetings some students like to argue for them to be run by consensus decision making, this means no voting and everyone has to agree on things before they can be carried out.

REVOLUTION's position is consensus where possible, voting where necessary. That means if no agreement can be reached after a certain time then the meeting should decide by a majority vote. This prevents meetings carrying on for endless hours and rounds of de-

bate that go nowhere. And sometimes compromises that try to please everyone, end up pleasing no-one.

Some libertarians argue that simply occupying a room and turning it into a "liberated space" is sufficient. But the occupied rooms are best used as a resource for the movement, where activists can come and organise, hold meetings, make banners and plan action! They should also be used to discuss big ideas, getting in outside speakers and having educational lectures on things that universities do not normally allow you to listen to.

Importantly once an occupation is under way, a lot of people tend to focus on 'running the occupation', which takes them out from building the movement in the outside world. Every day people in the occupation need to be out handing out leaflets about the demonstrations and protests.

Some anarchist students might complain about "Trotskyists" or "hierarchical groups" that want to "push their ideology". In some occupations, there is hostility towards those who sell papers or distribute leaflets. This kind of censorship needs to be fought. In the end, the fight against cuts and the fight against capitalism is a political fight. And the way to win is for freedom of debate and discussion, but absolute unity in action.

UCL occupied!



Join



Revolution is an international socialist youth organisation. We are a group of young activists who are fed up with unemployment, war, poverty, cuts and capitalism. We want to bring down Cameron and Clegg's millionaire coalition and replace it with socialism. The rich and powerful clique responsible for breaking up our public services, slashing benefits and leaving millions of us on the dole will not give up their wealth and property by being voted out. They are launching a class war to make youth and workers pay the cost of capitalism's crisis. We want to seize their assets and abolish class society with a socialist revolution. This is what we are fighting for.

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Meanwhile... at the British Embassy in Athens, Greece



